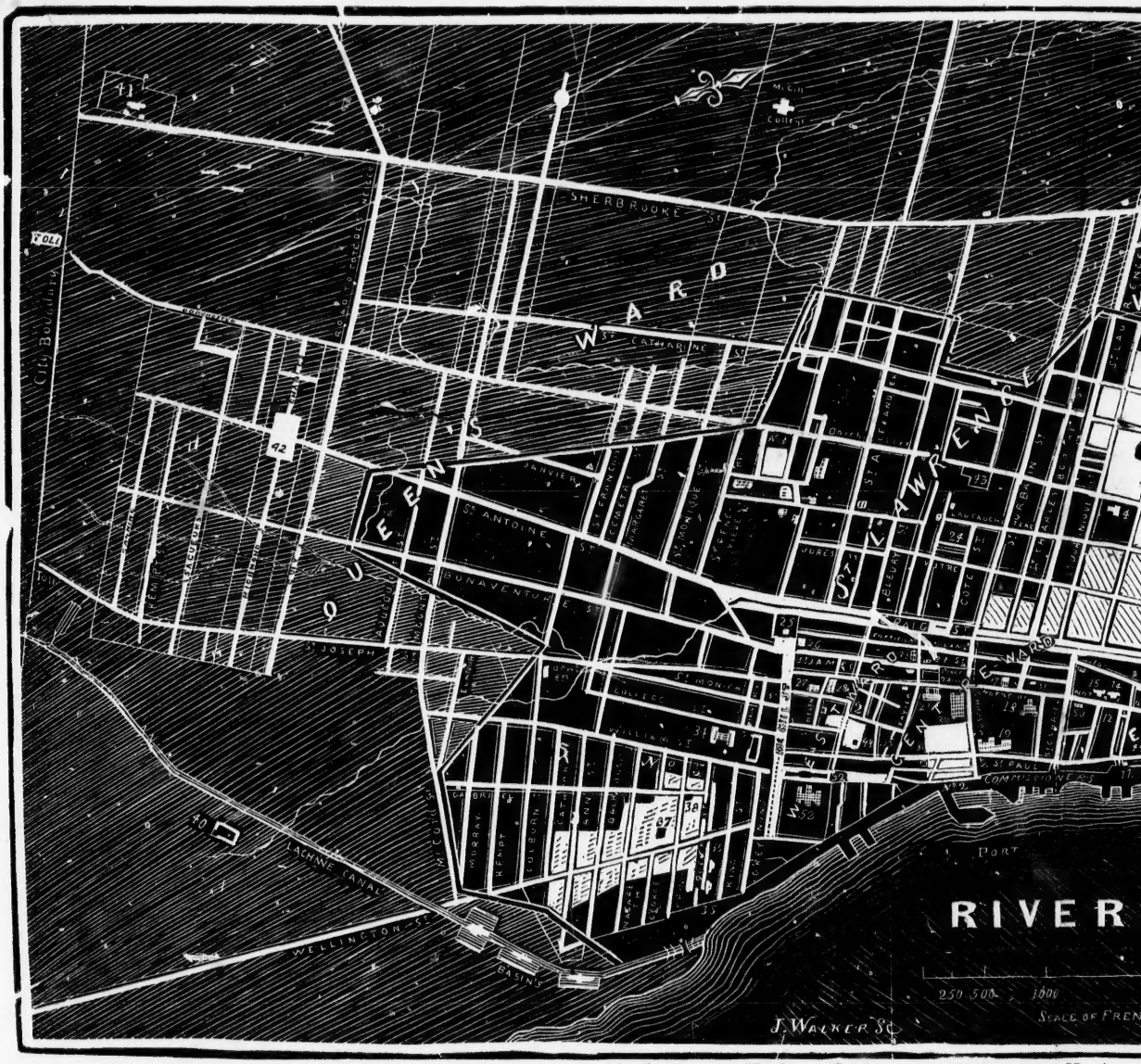
Pilot Extra, Montreal, Mon



No. 5. No. 3. No. 2. No. 2. No. 4.

1. St. James Church.
2. Catholic Bishop's House.
3. St. Lawrence Market.
4. General Hospital.
5. Viger Square.
6. Dalhousie Square.
7. Barracks.
8. Water Works Engine and Flour Mill.
9. Bonsecours Church.
10. Theatre Royal (now burnt).
11. Fish Market.
12. New Market.
13. Nelson's Monument.
14. House of Industry (now Barracks).
15. Court House.
16. Church of Scotland.
17. English Church.
18. Congregational Nunnery.
19. Hotel Dieu.
20. French Cathedral.
21. Seminary.
22. Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.
23. Montreal Bank.
24. French School.
25. Hay Market.
26. American Presbyterian Chapel.
27. Presbyterian Church.
28. Recollet Church.
29. Baptist Chapel.
30. Presbyterian Church.
31. Custom House.
32. St. Ann Market.

REFERENCES AND EXPLAN

The figures on the Map having reference to the FIRES are preceded by "N," the other figures relate to
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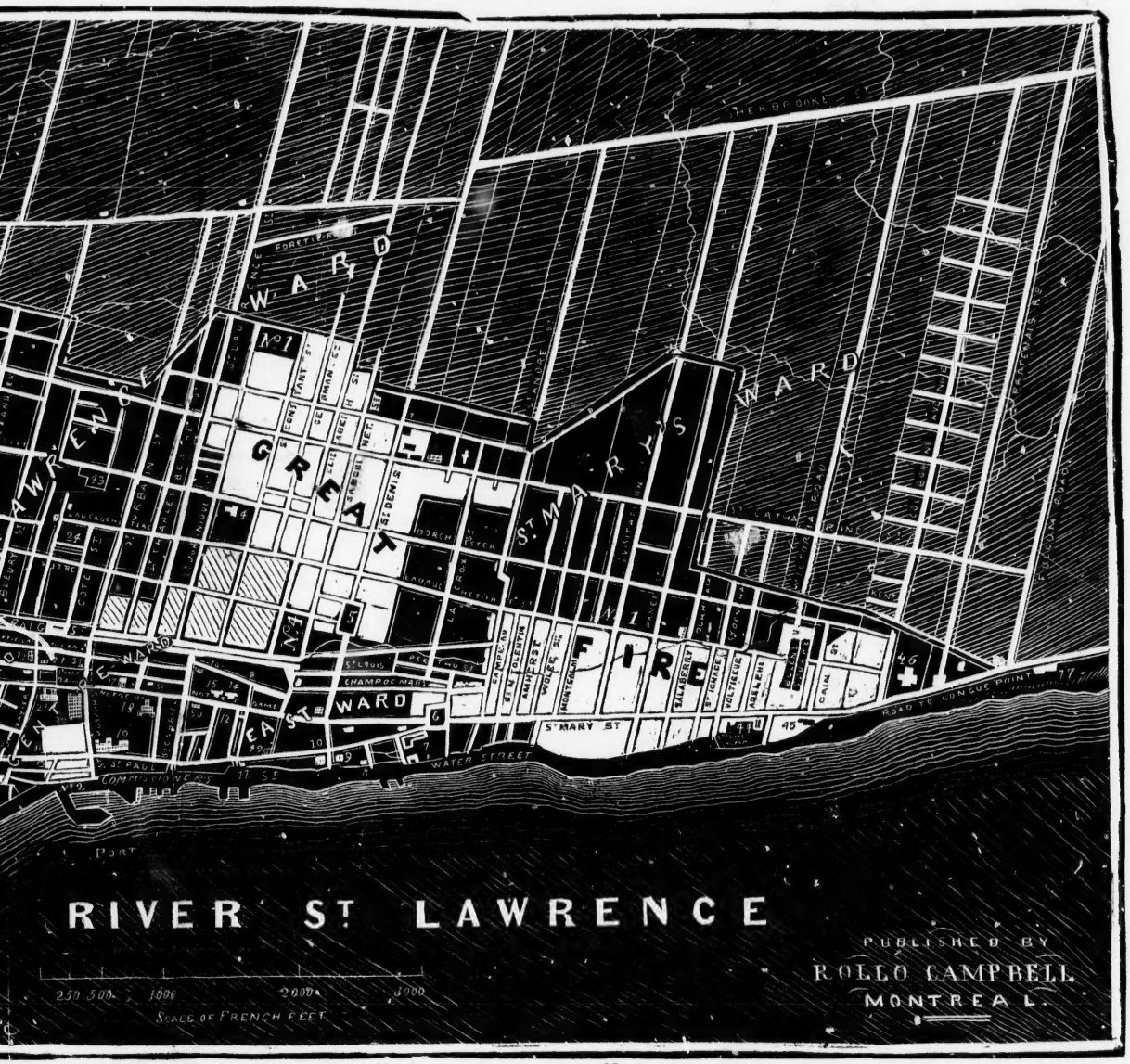

No. 2. No. 4. No. 1. No. 1.

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. Presbyterian Church.
. Recollet Church.
. Baptist Chapel.
. Presbyterian Church.
. Custom House.
. St. Ann Market.
33. Pearl and Potash Inspection.
34. College.
35. Grist and Sa w Mill.
36. Eagle Foundry.
37. Methodist Chapel.
38. Nail and Card Factory.
39. Chaboillez Square.
40. St. Gabriel Farm.
41. Priest's Farm.
42. Richmond Place.
43. Old Protestant Burial Ground.
44. Molson's Brewery.
45. St. Mary Foundry.
46. New Gaol.
47. Spirit Distillery.
48. Exchange Coffee House.
49. Nasco's Hotel.
50. Orr's Hotel.
51. Library and Natural History Society.
52. Grey Nunnery.
53. City Bank.
54. News Room.
55. People's Bank.
56. Post Office.

ICES AND EXPLANATIONS.

by "N," the other figures relate to Public Buildings, Squares, &c., as stated at foot.
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THE FIRE.

Agreeably to the promise made in the *Pilot* of 23rd instant, we issue the above Map of Montreal, engraved expressly for the occasion, and by which the course and extent of the terrible conflagration of the 8th instant will be distinctly seen. The Map also indicates the locality of the fire of 6th June last, in the West and Centre Wards, whereby an immense amount of property in goods, as well as in valuable houses and stores, was destroyed. These two fires are marked No. 1 and No. 2. To the left of the great fire in St. Lawrence Suburb, will be seen those of 1849 and 1850. Part of the area of these fires has been twice consumed: if, therefore, the houses repeatedly burnt, were added to the space on the Map shewing the extent of the damage, the *white* would cover a much larger portion than it now does. A considerable block in Beaver Hall is also marked as No. 4. The next and last spot which the Map exhibits as destroyed, is to the extreme West, in Griffintown, where repeated burnings have occurred, duplicating in several instances the losses of some of the residents. This locality is marked No. 5. It may now be observed, that all these fires have occurred since 1844, and it would not be very wide of the truth to say 1849—for in that year the largest burning took place in Griffintown, extending very nearly over the whole space previously destroyed.

Upon a Map of this size it is impossible to show the course of these fires with such exactness as to designate the few houses which may seem to have been preserved as by miracle. There are some half score dwellings embraced within the boundaries of the last calamity which have escaped; but, on the other hand, there are as many or more *out* of the line which have been laid in ashes. The several conflagrations, as marked on the Map, will fall within the actual space over-run by the fire.

To these trophies of the devouring element, might be added some hundred or more detached and scattered houses, also burnt singly and in groups at various times within the period embraced by the Map; but the simple statement of the fact will be sufficient for our purpose, and it should be borne in mind, when estimating the ravages by fire in Montreal during the last seven or eight years.

Our Map gives the extent of the City from East to West, but a very large proportion of the ground enclosed within its limits is as yet vacant. To show the boundaries of the inhabited portions, we have drawn a double line, which will give a fair idea of their actual extent previous to the last fire. There are some hundreds of houses outside of the line to be sure, but then the large vacant lots inside will far more than compensate for them; and the stranger or distant friend to whom this Map will come, may rest with confidence upon our estimate of the relative extent of the last conflagration, or of the total damage suffered within the period named.

As might be anticipated, the several patches swept by the fire were in the most densely populous districts, and the number of persons turned out of doors was accordingly very great. If we say that by these several burnings some 20,000 were dislodged, we will scarcely reach the maximum. One reason why so little difficulty was experienced in obtaining house accommodation by the more thrifty class among the sufferers, was, that Montreal having in the past over-built itself,—an extraordinary mania for building having at one time infected the wealthier classes,—many houses were standing unoccupied, into which they were of course gladly received by the proprietors, in most instances at very moderate rents, considering the temptation to speculate upon the exigencies of the times, but in some instances at an exorbitant price. In connexion with this, we have heard of a wretch who owns several small houses, but whose soul is so diminutive,—if, indeed, he be at all troubled with so useless an appendage,—that when applied to by some mechanics bereft of their little all, he demanded and obtained a rate so entirely beyond the utmost possible value of the lodgings, and of course so out of proportion with the earnings of the applicants, that but for the unavoidableness of the alternative, his houses might have continued empty, though much wanted. There was no other choice than to sleep out of doors, exposed to the heavy dews and rains of the season, or temporarily to submit to the exaction. We remember having once heard a candidate for civic honors addressing his constituents upon the superlative meanness of his opponent, who in illustrating his meaning, said Mr. Jorum's soul was *so small*, that "if it were put inside a nut-shell, it would have as much room to swim as a frog in the Pacific Ocean." So say we of the man who, seeing his brother in distress, with a brood of little ones and a suffering wife, exposed by day to the dreadful rays of a vertical sun, throwing out heat at the rate of 95 to 100 in the shade, or to the still more fatal dews of night, would demand a price for a house, or anything else indispensably necessary, which the poor destitute father could only engage to pay by almost irremediably mortgaging the fruit of his future sweat and toil! Surely such men will have their reward.

The morning after the fire we made it our duty to visit as large a portion of the burnt district as we could; and, amid the ruin and desolation of the awful scene, one beautiful feature of humanity invariably met our eye, and spoke directly to our heart: it was this—the poor, or, we should perhaps say, the working people, whose houses had been spared, were all busily engaged in ministering to the necessities of their suffering fellows; every standing house appeared like a bee-hive—full. It seemed to us that the spirit which actuated the primitive Christians had full play here; they seemed to have all things in common. Those that had goods, food and shelter, freely gave to those that were destitute, and all thought of self was for the time put *en oubli*. But, notwithstanding this, there was a fearful amount of suffering which no charity could immediately reach. Some thousands of the houseless had passed the night on the fields, and were even then grouped, each family around the wreck of their household goods, sweltering under the rays of an already burning sun. Here and there a temporary shed of boards had been erected, under which the mothers and their little ones sought to hide from the too intense heat. Hundreds were crowded under the lee of a few barns and fences, and some had umbrellas; but by far the larger number were destitute of shelter, while the thermometer was rising 90, reaching during the day to nearly 100. We have heard that during the night several children were born in the fields—a circumstance which is not at all improbable, considering the large number of families driven out before the relentless scourge, whose notice to quit admitted of no hesitating acquiescence. This was the appearance of St. Lawrence Suburb—the portion invaded during the previous day.

In Quebec Suburb the scene was somewhat different—for there the fire was still raging, and the inhabitants in full retreat before the conquering foe. Here and there might be seen persons utterly prostrate, "tired nature" asserting the necessity of repose, even among the smoking ruins and in the seething heat of an atmosphere, from which every particle of moisture seemed to have evaporated. Of these sleepers some were firemen, who, after twenty-four hours of contention with an enemy more formidable than the old French legions, had unc
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The fire had commenced about 9 o'clock on the morning of one day, and after reaching the extreme limit of Quebec Suburb, ceased its ravages on the second day at about 11 o'clock, A.M.

The business of the city was all but stayed that day. When it was ascertained that the work of destruction was finished, there was a pause, as if the violent throbbings of the previous twenty-five hours had wearied the public heart, and it required some time to collect its forces for healthy action. After a couple of hours, however, the necessity of providing for the immediate wants of the homeless and suffering was appropriately felt and considered. A private subscription had already commenced, when the Corporation met and voted £1000. This, with the aid ministered by the efforts of private benevolence—already adverted to—met the case, and afforded leisure for the consideration of the next great requirement—shelter. The military authorities here interposed, and a large number of tents were pitched in the fields. Several large tenements remaining unoccupied were thrown open, and the Hon. John Young, Commissioner of Public Works, caused the Sheds at Point St. Charles to be prepared for the reception of as many as chose to avail themselves of them. By these means, before the second night began, some refuge was provided for the poor, and they were saved from exposure to the heavy rains which followed.

The above may be regarded as a rapid sketch of these two eventful days. It would be invidious to select from among the thousands who labored at the fire, and after the fire, instances of peculiar usefulness, courage, skill, &c. Where all are actuated by the same motives, all are equally entitled to gratitude. It is therefore impossible to particularize.

The evil is done, its extent known, and its remedy is now the object of attention. The Provincial Government will no doubt take action in the matter. To meet pressing wants, the Executive have already voted £2500; and subscriptions in the city, at Quebec, Toronto, New York, Boston, and elsewhere, are being taken up with commendable zeal and generosity.

The extent of this fire, and the losses consequent upon it, have been variously estimated. After the most careful attention, we are of opinion that about twelve hundred tenements of various classes have been destroyed, and at least as many thousands of persons dislodged. The loss in money figures is not so great as one would imagine from the extent of the conflagration, yet we believe that any calculation short of £500,000 is under the amount. If to the loss of houses and furniture be added the loss of time, and the expenses consequent upon the re-establishment of the population somewhere, we think the city will have suffered in a sum much in excess of that we have named. But, when it is remembered that this loss falls chiefly upon the laboring classes, its magnitude is frightful. The labor of a lifetime in thousands of cases is nullified, and all the little comforts which the patient industry of the mothers had stored up for the children, are lost—and so lost as not to be easily replaced, even by the gift of money to the actual value of the effects.

The domestic thrift and economy of our French Canadian women, is exhibited in the knitted hose, the warm and often well-patched garments of their husbands and sons; and to them, against a coming severe winter, clothing which would not in the market bring a shilling in the pound of its original cost, is of full par value. We deeply sympathise with our suffering, though humble, fellow-citizens; and trust that the rich, who have so mercifully escaped, will show their appreciation of the immunity by a liberality proportioned to the occasion—"To do good, and to communicate, forget not," &c. We are well satisfied, however, that Montreal will be true to its past character for Christian philanthropy; and, believing this, we forbear any preachment on the subject.

Our Map shows, that, within the last six or seven years, nearly one-half of the City has been laid in ashes! The circumstance is, therefore, worthy of brief comment, at least. After all these great fires some one has been ready to blame the *Water Committee, the Fire Department, &c. &c.* Now, it is our honest opinion that, whatever fault there may have been, the real defect is not there. The trouble is to be sought elsewhere. We ought not to calculate upon having to extinguish conflagrations extending over acres or miles: "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," is an adage most apposite in this case. We require to *prevent*, not to *put out*, fires; and to this the attention of our citizens, and that of their representatives in the Council, is urgently called. It may be said that we can only provide against the recurrence of extensive fires in the portion of the City now in ruins. We may certainly do it there most effectually, and I have no doubt that stringent regulations will be adopted with reference to the rebuilding of St. Lawrence and Quebec Suburbs. But it is not quite correct to decide at once against our ability to protect the other parts of the City yet standing, and chiefly built in wood. We have some three or four thousand wooden buildings yet, threatening some other awful conflagration; and the match of the devil-driven incendiary may one of these nights complete the work of ruin. Is it, then, absolutely impossible to render wooden houses so far uninflammable, as to prevent their immediate ignition from external contact? At present, a spark falling on the shingled roof will decide the fate of a house, and perhaps that of the City. Now, it strikes us, that various preparations, calculated to prevent immediate combustion, are offered, patented, guaranteed, &c.; and that the application of them to the exterior of our wooden houses, would go a long way towards preventing the spread of fire. We have often observed—and did especially remark it at the last fire—that wooden buildings, well covered with a strong solution of lime, will resist the flames for a long time. We have seen a house burning furiously inside, while the external lining seemed almost incapable of ignition, for the reason assigned. If lime be so great a protection against fire, is not our Corporation competent to decree a law by which the proprietors of such dwellings will be compelled to keep them so thoroughly covered with it, as to make them comparatively secure?

But if there are other washes more effectual than lime, as we believe there are, the duty to inquire into the matter becomes so much the more important; and we therefore beg earnestly to press the subject upon our City Fathers, before we are called upon to mourn in sack-cloth over the smouldering remains of St. Antoine Suburb and the other sections of Montreal yet offering themselves as a tempting prey to the devouring flame!

Other *protective* ideas are before the public, in which we heartily concur—such, for instance, as the erection of tanks at various points, &c.; but our remarks having already reached a most unconscionable length, we must take leave of the subject for the present.

Copies may be had at the *Pilot* Office, the Book-store of Messrs. D. & J. Sadlier & Co., Corner of Notre Dame and St. François Xavier Streets, and at all the Book-stores in Quebec. Price Threepence.